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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Uzbekistan

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Uzbekistan was held at the 5th meeting, on 9 May 2018. The delegation of Uzbekistan was headed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* (Parliament) on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and citizens' self-government bodies, Akmal Saidov. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Uzbekistan.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Uzbekistan: Côte d'Ivoire, Saudi Arabia and Slovakia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Uzbekistan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/UZB/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/UZB/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/UZB/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Uzbekistan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Uzbekistan stated that the first ever parliamentary report on the situation of human rights in the country had been published, a broad administrative reform was being implemented, the Office of the Business Ombudsman had been set up, and that, in 2017, Uzbekistan had observed the Year of Dialogue with the People and of Human Interests.

6. Other key steps taken included legislation on overseeing the actions of members of the Government, adopted by Parliament in 2017. Uzbek civil society was developing actively. For the Government, the opinion of every citizen mattered, and citizens had various tools for direct communication. All those measures were in line with the action strategy on five priority areas of development in Uzbekistan for 2017–2021.

7. Uzbekistan had been one of the first Central Asian countries to establish a national human rights institution. Human rights education efforts were continuous, with courses taught in all school classes and at university.

8. Efforts to ensure a genuinely independent judiciary required constitutional reform. The commission for the election of judges under the President's authority had been dissolved and a supreme judicial council had been established as the highest judicial body, and granted constitutional status. The new body was tasked with selecting judges and overseeing the constitutional principle of the independence of the judiciary. Judges henceforth served for life; judges retired at the age of 65, while Supreme Court justices retired at 70. Material and technical support for courts had been transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Supreme Court itself. An example of progress was the fact that, in

2017, a total of 262 people had been acquitted, up from only 4 people in 2016. Moreover, acquittals or non-custodial sentences had been handed down in high-profile trials of independent journalists and human rights defenders accused of undermining the constitutional order.

9. Civil society reforms concerning non-governmental organizations (NGOs) included the elimination of unjustifiably restrictive registration procedures for them, exemption from 10 types of taxes, removal of the restriction on opening bank accounts and the introduction of electronic registration. More than 9,200 NGOs were active in Uzbekistan, and rent-free "NGO houses" had been established for their use.

10. With regard to corruption, a new law on State procurement had been designed to enhance transparency in public procurement and eradicate corruption.

11. Established in 2017, the Office of the Business Ombudsperson was a non-judicial body created to protect the rights of entrepreneurs. It was independent of government bodies and officials and answerable only to the Constitution and laws. Its activities and tasks, regulated by a law adopted in August 2017, were to shape State policy to help to defend and develop entrepreneurship, to ensure that State bodies respected entrepreneurs' rights, to provide legal support to entrepreneurs, and to guarantee freedom of entrepreneurship. It had already examined more than 1,500 complaints, and a helpline and a website had also been created to communicate with entrepreneurs. With regard to proposals to restore entrepreneurs' rights, out of 20 cases, there had been 8 warnings and 2 lawsuits for $500,000.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

12. During the interactive dialogue, 77 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are contained in section II of the present report.

13. Belgium welcomed the release of several political prisoners and the easing of some restrictions on freedom of expression. It noted, however, the significant gap between the international obligations of Uzbekistan and their implementation on the ground.

14. Argentina commended Uzbekistan for having adopted its action strategy on five priority areas of development.

15. Bulgaria encouraged Uzbekistan to take steps to implement the new legislation and public policies, and to enhance the independence and effectiveness of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

16. While commending Uzbekistan for addressing human rights challenges, including child labour in the cotton sector, Canada expressed hope that Uzbekistan would continue its progress in addressing harassment of persons, including of civil society actors and journalists.

17. Chile appreciated the State's cooperation with the United Nations and the various constitutional amendments made to broaden rights and the protection of freedoms. It regretted the suspension of registration of international human rights organizations. Chile noted the absence of women in the delegation of the State under review.

18. China welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to promote and protect human rights, including the progress witnessed in economic and social development, poverty reduction, the raising of living standards, gender equality and promotion of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable sectors of society.

19. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the State's strengthened cooperation with OHCHR and human rights mechanisms. It encouraged Uzbekistan to strengthen its legislative framework for human rights, in particular for the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and migrants.

20. Cuba welcomed the measures taken to strengthen women's rights and the judiciary, and highlighted the improved quality of education witnessed at all levels.

21. Czechia noted with interest the State's adoption of its action strategy on five priority areas of development in Uzbekistan for 2017–2021.

22. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed the ratification of several international instruments, the national plan of action for 2014–2016, the strengthened dialogue and cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and the consolidation of the legislative framework for human rights.

23. Denmark emphasized that dialogue with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was highly valuable to all States working to prevent torture and ill-treatment. The Convention against Torture Initiative stood ready to explore avenues to assist Uzbekistan.

24. Egypt welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to counter corruption and human trafficking, and to establish mechanisms to promote and protect civil and political rights in the country.

25. Estonia expressed its concern regarding the situation of freedoms of expression, assembly, association and movement, and at reports of harassment, surveillance, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment of journalists and human rights defenders.

26. Finland remained concerned about continued reports of torture and ill-treatment in detention and of forced labour, especially in the cotton harvesting sector. It urged Uzbekistan to ensure respect for the freedoms of expression, association and assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards.

27. France welcomed the improvements made to the legislative framework of the rule of law and the reforms in the justice sector. It also noted the reduction in the incidence of forced labour and the greater space accorded to civil society.

28. Georgia welcomed the national plan of action for the implementation of recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms and the State's cooperation with OHCHR. It encouraged Uzbekistan to take steps to ensure that relevant policies and legislation were in full compliance with international standards.

29. Germany welcomed the reforms made by Uzbekistan and its commitment to abolishing child and forced labour, to releasing political detainees and to preventing torture. It remained concerned about restrictions on civil society and NGOs, and ongoing reports of torture in prisons.

30. Ghana welcomed the progress made in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. It expressed concern, however, about alleged cases of unlawful arrest, detention, torture, ill-treatment and conviction of members of religious minorities.

31. Greece welcomed the national plan of action (2014–2016) to implement the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms. It also welcomed the recent visit by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to Uzbekistan.

32. Paraguay applauded the national plan of action for the implementation of recommendations made by the treaty bodies, particularly the State's plan to develop cooperation with OHCHR. The coordination of efforts was crucial to the ratification of human rights instruments.

33. Hungary commended the release of political prisoners and the lowering of restrictions on freedom of expression. It welcomed the visits conducted in 2017 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and also welcomed the road map on cooperation with OHCHR.

34. While welcoming the adoption of a plan of action to combat trafficking in persons, Iceland expressed its concern at the lack of investigations into prosecution of and convictions on trafficking in women and girls.

35. India appreciated the consolidation of the legal status of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner and the greater effectiveness of the National Centre for Human

Rights. It praised some of the public welfare measures taken for the poor, children with disabilities and the elderly.

36. Indonesia praised the steps taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021.

37. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the State for its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, the steps taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2017 presidential decree on supporting persons with disabilities.

38. Iraq welcomed the constitutional and legislative reforms to promote human rights, and the national programmes to fight corruption and human trafficking.

39. Poland welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

40. Italy praised the State's enhanced cooperation with international organizations, its constructive dialogue with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and the ongoing human rights reforms.

41. Japan welcomed the State's emphasis on judicial and socioeconomic reform and the strengthening of civil society in the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021, the Administrative Procedures Act and the Administrative Litigation Act.

42. Kazakhstan welcomed the increased cooperation of Uzbekistan with the treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and the efforts it had made to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, to reform the public management system and to preserve interethnic and interfaith harmony, while addressing the cultural and linguistic needs of minorities.

43. Kuwait noted the progress made in the fields of human rights, counter-terrorism, non-discrimination, political and civil participation, and cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

44. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the significant progress made since the previous review cycle, pointing out that the new legislative changes and practical steps would have a significant impact on the promotion of human rights in Uzbekistan.

45. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the action strategy on five priority areas of development. It also welcomed the bill on guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men.

46. Lithuania welcomed the State's enhanced cooperation with OHCHR and the progress made in eliminating child labour, and the release of political activists, human rights defenders and journalists who had been detained.

47. Malaysia welcomed the progress made in gender equality and the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. It also welcomed the progress made in human rights education, social welfare, health, and poverty reduction and eradication.

48. Maldives welcomed the efforts made to strengthen the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in accordance with the Paris Principles. It also welcomed the national plan of action to implement the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms and the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021.

49. Mexico acknowledged the policy of openness of the Government and the measures taken on the issue of disability.

50. Montenegro welcomed the agreement with OHCHR and called upon the Government to issue a standing invitation to all special procedures. It invited the State to repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code, which criminalized consensual sexual activities between adult males.

51. Morocco commended the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021 and the steps that the State had taken to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It welcomed the measures taken in the areas of corruption, domestic violence, education, health and women's empowerment.

52. The delegation of Uzbekistan stated that, with regard to cotton harvesting, measures had been taken to eradicate forced labour. The President had addressed the issue, and a parliamentary commission had been set up to ensure respect for labour rights. The Government was working together with representatives of Cotton Campaign, an international NGO that monitored the cotton sector worldwide. Various measures had been taken to improve the situation: harvest wages had been increased by 250 per cent in 2017; a sector-wide review, from planting to harvesting, had been conducted; and cotton growing was being phased out on low-yielding land. Annual production of cotton thread was around one ton; 72.5 per cent of the cotton harvest was processed, representing some 750,000 tons. Two major cotton-producing projects with a budget of $464 million had led to the creation of more than 6,500 jobs.

53. The delegation stated that targeted social protection measures had been taken for persons with disabilities. Efforts were continuing to ensure the compliance of infrastructure with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to secure its ratification. Some 20 NGOs worked directly to help persons with disabilities, while more than 600 NGOs offered additional assistance, including free courses in sign language and Braille. Steps were being taken to guarantee better quality of prosthetics and other rehabilitation devices required by persons with disabilities. The Government had launched a programme for the period 2017–2020 in support of persons with disabilities.

54. Efforts to prevent violence in places of detention and protect citizens against torture emphasized prevention. In 2017, additional measures had been taken to strengthen guarantees for defendants' rights and freedoms. Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment had been fully implemented by article 235 of the Criminal Code, which contained a ban on torture. A procedure had been introduced for complaints concerning unlawful conduct by law enforcement officials. Henceforth, prosecutors would regularly verify the conditions of those in pretrial detention facilities or holding centres with the help of audio and video surveillance. In addition, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Business Ombudsman provided independent monitoring. New restrictions had been introduced regarding the admissibility of evidence. Evidence was inadmissible if it had been obtained unlawfully or in violation of the Criminal Code; if a defendant's rights had been infringed in the process; if information came from an unknown source; or if testimony did not meet the required standards.

55. The delegation reported on efforts made to prevent torture in places of detention. Some 2,500 video surveillance cameras had been installed in pretrial detention facilities and holding centres; 123 had been installed in cells, and plans had been made for the installation of an additional 285 cameras. To ensure a timely response to reports by citizens on cases of torture, in 2017, the Ministry of Internal Affairs had opened special premises for receiving citizens and taking their complaints. Some 40 complaints concerning people in custody had been lodged, as a result of which 10 officials would be relieved of their duties.

56. A law had been adopted on 17 April 2018 to fight human trafficking. There was a need to align the Criminal Code with relevant international instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. One noteworthy step taken at the national level had been the establishment of an interagency commission to fight human trafficking. In 2017, a total of 204 criminal cases had been brought on grounds of sexual exploitation, and 32 criminal cases for labour exploitation (down from 81 in 2016).

57. Additional measures had been taken to ensure gender equality. The Committee for Women was very active in that respect, and a law on combating domestic violence had been adopted. At the national level there were over more than 30 laws on the protection of gender equality. Efforts were being made to ensure equal pay for work of equal value. Plans had been made to create the position of ombudsman for children and youth.

58. Nepal welcomed the emphasis given to countering corruption, fighting human trafficking and promoting health and quality education. It also welcomed the State's engagement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations human rights mechanisms. Nepal called upon Uzbekistan to continue its measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, to fight domestic and gender violence and to ensure gender equality.

59. The Netherlands welcomed the visits made to Uzbekistan by the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief in 2017. It also welcomed the efforts made to eliminate child labour and to ratify all relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It regretted the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Uzbekistan.

60. Nigeria commended the State for its cooperation with human rights mechanisms. It welcomed the State's human rights plans and programmes, and the efforts it had made to uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and in countering terrorism.

61. Norway noted the greater openness and international engagement of Uzbekistan, the release of political prisoners, the removal of persons from black lists, the increasing freedom of the press and the progress made in abolishing forced labour. Restrictions on civil society and freedom of expression, association and belief, however, remained.

62. Oman appreciated the amendments made to the Constitution in 2017, and laws and regulations supporting social services for the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

63. Pakistan welcomed the measures taken on human rights and freedoms, and the action programme against human trafficking for 2017–2018.

64. Honduras praised Uzbekistan for its implementation of the recommendations that it had accepted.

65. The Philippines commended Uzbekistan for its efforts to institutionalize the protection of victims of trafficking by including a provision of medical support, and also to improve the normative framework to strengthen the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

66. Ireland welcomed the State's increased cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, as shown by the visits of the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. Reports were still being received on the use of torture and ill-treatment against detainees and prisoners, and on the harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment of human rights defenders, journalists and government critics.

67. Portugal acknowledged ongoing reforms effected by Uzbekistan to ensure its socioeconomic development.

68. Qatar praised the State for the constitutional amendments made to bolster human rights, the adoption of the action strategy on five priority areas and the plan to support persons with disabilities. It welcomed also the efforts made to improve equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities.

69. The Republic of Korea welcomed the measures taken to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, the institutionalization of a constitutional court, the amendments made to the Citizenship Act and the regulations introduced to increase freedom of movement inside and across borders.

70. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to approve national plans of action to implement the recommendations made by the treaty bodies and to amend the Constitution, particularly the provisions on the public control of activities conducted by the authorities.

71. Saudi Arabia acknowledged the increased level of cooperation of Uzbekistan with the treaty bodies and the special procedures, and its adoption of the memorandum of understanding between the National Centre for Human Rights and OHCHR.

72. Senegal praised Uzbekistan for its ratification of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and its plans to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

73. Serbia commended the State for the measures taken to bring national human rights institutions into line with the Paris Principles and to adopt plans of action to implement international human rights standards. It encouraged Uzbekistan to take measures to eliminate maternal and newborn mortality.

74. Slovakia praised the efforts made to strengthen media freedom and active cooperation with ILO in tackling child labour. It expressed concern at the fact that many journalists remained in custody.

75. Slovenia welcomed the improvement of the situation of human rights, pointing to active cooperation of Uzbekistan with civil society to strengthen the judicial system and raise awareness on human rights. It pointed to reports of forced labour and hazardous working conditions.

76. Spain urged Uzbekistan to address discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to take steps to investigate and punish acts of violence and hate crimes.

77. The State of Palestine noted with appreciation the steps taken by Uzbekistan to introduce reforms to protect human rights and to sign the memorandum of understanding between the National Centre for Human Rights and OHCHR.

78. According to Sweden, Uzbekistan had taken positive steps to improve the situation of human rights, such as the release of human rights defenders and its review of many prison sentences. Nonetheless, an unknown number of individuals were still in prison on politically motivated charges.

79. Switzerland commended Uzbekistan for its wide-ranging reforms and encouraged it to fully implement its development strategy for 2017–2021. It welcomed the release of prisoners of conscience, but noted with concern that many people were still detained for having expressed their political views.

80. Tajikistan acknowledged the measures taken by Uzbekistan to adopt the plan of action for developing cooperation with OHCHR, to fight human trafficking and to provide legal protection and medical care for the victims of trafficking, and also the steps it had taken to eliminate child and forced labour.

81. Togo praised Uzbekistan for the improvements made to the constitutional and legislative framework and the adoption of international norms to strengthen cooperation with the treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms.

82. Turkmenistan noted the increased level of cooperation between Uzbekistan, OHCHR, the treaty bodies, the special procedures and international NGOs on questions of human rights and freedoms.

83. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the adoption of a number of national plans of action, and enquired about any preliminary conclusions reached since Uzbekistan had adopted its national plan of action on human trafficking the previous year.

84. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the positive developments in the situation of human rights in Uzbekistan, but also the concerns remaining with regard to freedom of expression and association.

85. The United States of America commended Uzbekistan for the steps taken to expand space for civil society and reduce structural challenges for NGOs. It urged Uzbekistan to continue its efforts to address torture, and to invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit the country. It noted with concern the wide-ranging restrictions on peaceful religious activity and the fact that reports were still being received of cases of adult forced labour.

86. Uruguay hailed the implementation by Uzbekistan of its plans of action, including its development strategy. It hoped that the State would consider ratifying the Rome Statute

and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

87. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela applauded the State's social protection plans for older people and persons with disability, the medical care policies for rural dwellers, mothers and children, and the national system for development goals focused on employment and social protection.

88. Yemen welcomed the efforts made by Uzbekistan to strengthen human rights, particularly its adoption of the action strategy on five priority areas of development and the strengthening of the constitutional guarantee with regard to submitting complaints with the authorities.

89. Afghanistan commended the Government of Uzbekistan for its efforts to empower the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, and encouraged the State to take further action to promote and protect human rights.

90. Algeria commended the State for its implementation of the programme of action to combat human trafficking and the inclusion of all the categories of human rights in its action strategy on five priority areas of development, and encouraged Uzbekistan to monitor the outcome of steps taken.

91. Brazil commended Uzbekistan for its continued efforts to reduce poverty, to provide access to education and health and to combat infant mortality and malnutrition. It encouraged the State to extend a standing invitation to the special procedures.

92. Armenia encouraged Uzbekistan to expand human rights training and education. It noted the State's use of modern information and communications technology in its dialogues with the public, and encouraged Uzbekistan to strengthen public and civil society dialogue in the implementation of human rights programmes.

93. Australia commended Uzbekistan for its decree against forced labour and for its progress in the protection of freedom of expression. It welcomed the measures taken by the State to improve the situation of human rights of detainees and to strengthen protection against ill-treatment and torture.

94. Azerbaijan praised the achievements of Uzbekistan in its incorporation of international human rights standards into the national education system. It commended Uzbekistan for the progress made in delivering public services in a transparent and efficient manner.

95. Belarus praised the comprehensive and systemic approach taken by Uzbekistan to implement human rights policy through its action strategy on five priority areas of development and the measures taken to promote employment, improve the quality of public services and increase cooperation with OHCHR and its regional office.

96. The delegation of Uzbekistan stated that the country was endeavouring to guarantee the rights and freedoms of journalists and to strengthen the freedom of the media to operate. The persecution of journalists was not an issue, as reflected in the comment by Lithuania to the effect that no journalists were currently detained in the country.

97. With regard to issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, Uzbekistan, like the other States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, wished to preserve family values and was therefore not planning to amend article 120 of the Criminal Code.

98. With regard to the urban-rural divide mentioned, Uzbekistan gave priority to various recommendations on decent housing. A nationwide programme launched in 2016 had led to the construction of 18,000 well-equipped buildings and the renovation of 130,000 buildings in rural areas. Furthermore, a one-off "rental amnesty" had been designed to facilitate the establishment of property title. Other steps were being taken to implement economic and cultural changes that would benefit all rural dwellers, relating, inter alia, to the rights to decent work, education and affordable health care.

99. Determined efforts were being made to reduce statelessness. Over the past five years, 1,500 stateless persons had been granted Uzbek citizenship. Moreover, efforts were

being made to ensure comprehensive registration of all births. In a recent report, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had pointed out that Uzbekistan had a birth registration rate of 100 per cent. Furthermore, a campaign had been launched to register children directly in remote areas. The Aral Sea area was a development priority for the Government. In 2017 alone, some 150,000 people had gained access to drinking water thanks to the renovation of water pipes and water supply plants. The Government had earmarked $2.5 billion for the development of the region.

100. The delegation informed the Human Rights Council that, for the first time in 15 years, Uzbekistan had extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The State intended to work closely also with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. One priority of the current judicial reform was the ratification of international conventions and United Nations instruments. For example, Uzbekistan would soon ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

101. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Uzbekistan and enjoy the support of Uzbekistan:**

101.1 **Ratify the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras);**

101.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Spain);**

101.3 **Ratify the international instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Togo);**

101.4 **Ratify the main human rights instruments to which the State is not yet a party (Côte d'Ivoire);**

101.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);**

101.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

101.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**

101.8 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

101.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Greece);**

101.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Lithuania);**

101.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

101.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal);**

101.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);**

101.14 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and step up its efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Indonesia);**

101.15 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);**

101.16 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as the issue of enforced disappearance is an urgent global problem that we all have to tackle (Japan);**

101.17 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**

101.18 **Consider accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Georgia);**

101.19 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Paraguay);**

101.20 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq);**

101.21 **Accelerate the process of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Kazakhstan);**

101.22 **Expedite the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Oman);**

101.23 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

101.24 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Qatar);**

101.25 **Expedite efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**

101.26 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Armenia);**

101.27 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

101.28 **Continue dialogue with relevant countries, international agencies and civil society in order to improve the human rights situation, including that of women, children and persons with disabilities (Japan);**

101.29 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

101.30 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Iceland);**

101.31 **Issue an official invitation to all United Nations mandate holders who have outstanding requests to visit Uzbekistan (Hungary);**

101.32 Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Poland);

101.33 Invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Norway);

101.34 Extend an open invitation to special procedure mandate holders and human rights mechanisms (Honduras);

101.35 Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures (Portugal);

101.36 Ratify both the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);

101.37 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Brazil);

101.38 Continue its cooperation efforts with United Nations mechanisms and treaty bodies (Morocco);

101.39 Continue its engagement and cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Pakistan);

101.40 Continue constructive cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Tajikistan);

101.41 Strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system in the area of human rights (Algeria);

101.42 Continue its active engagement with special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and OHCHR (Azerbaijan);

101.43 Continue its consolidation of the rule of law by concretely implementing new legislation (France);

101.44 Ensure respect for transparency and equity in the granting of land and real-estate facilities to investors (France);

101.45 Continue efforts to strengthen the national legal framework for human rights (Georgia);

101.46 Establish an overarching national human rights plan that takes into account its international obligations and guides coordination efforts between the various national action plans and State programmes (Paraguay);

101.47 Continue efforts on human rights education and training for the benefit of civil servants and authorities (Morocco);

101.48 Consider adopting further necessary measures to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in line with its international obligations (Nigeria);

101.49 Continue its work to bring national legislation into line with Uzbekistan's international obligations (Russian Federation);

101.50 Pursue measures to fight corruption, in particular through the adoption of an anti-corruption law in line with international standards in this area (Algeria);

101.51 Maintain and further develop the application of innovative approaches and technological innovations in the efficient delivery of public services (Azerbaijan);

101.52 Bring domestic legislation on counter-terrorism into line with the relevant international framework (Mexico);

101.53 Take actions necessary to preserve human rights while countering terrorism (Afghanistan);

101.54 Widen the scope of its human rights national action plan through an inclusive approach for the advancement of the promotion and protection of human rights (Indonesia);

101.55 Continue the practice of adopting national plans for actions in various fields with the purpose of improving the human rights situation in the country (Tajikistan);

101.56 Pursue its efforts to strengthen the national human rights institution and bring it into conformity with the Paris Principles (Egypt);

101.57 Further strengthen the National Centre for Human Rights and the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (India);

101.58 Redouble efforts to strengthen its national human rights institutions to comply with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

101.59 Step up efforts to align its national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles (Philippines);

101.60 Pursue efforts to set up a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Qatar);

101.61 Establish a national human rights institution fully in line with the Paris Principles (Senegal);

101.62 Ensure that the national human rights institution is fully in line with the Paris Principles (Togo);

101.63 Advance in the adjustment of existing institutions with a view to establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Uruguay);

101.64 Continue efforts to expedite the adoption of the law on public oversight and the establishment of public councils in all government bodies (Yemen);

101.65 Ensure fully the alignment of the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan);

101.66 Request technical cooperation with OHCHR to establish a permanent national mechanism to follow up on the implementation of international human rights recommendations (Paraguay);

101.67 Consider the establishment or the strengthening of the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with elements identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);

101.68 Define racial discrimination and incorporate all the elements of article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into its legislation (Côte d'Ivoire);

101.69 Take all appropriate measures to improve the living conditions of all detainees, as well as to prevent any phenomena of mistreatment or torture in prisons (Greece);

101.70 Ensure the rights of detainees and prisoners to contact their families and medical doctors and to consult with a lawyer of their choice in privacy and confidence (Poland);

101.71 Grant access to places of detention to independent monitors (Lithuania);

101.72 Continue the process of releasing all political prisoners together with a transparent process to bring legislation into line with the international framework on civil and political rights (Mexico);

101.73 **Revise practices in detention facilities to eliminate the use of torture or other cruel treatment or punishment, employ independent monitoring, and thoroughly investigate and prosecute allegations of such practices (Canada);**

101.74 **Carry out judicial and penitentiary reforms in accordance with international law (Norway);**

101.75 **Release all persons imprisoned on politically motivated charges (Sweden);**

101.76 **Close the Jaslyk prison colony, facilitate full and unhindered access for monitoring by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia);**

101.77 **Publicly condemn the use of torture and establish a system of independent inspection and control of places of detention in order to prevent the possible use of torture in those places of detention (Belgium);**

101.78 **Strengthen the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (France);**

101.79 **Amend article 235 of the Criminal Code to ensure that the definition of torture is in full compliance with international human rights law, and invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit Uzbekistan (Germany);**

101.80 **Release all wrongfully imprisoned persons and take further meaningful measures to end torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities (Hungary);**

101.81 **Carry out prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and prosecute and punish all those responsible, including law enforcement and prison officials (Ireland);**

101.82 **Take measures to put an end to torture, and implement the recommendations of United Nations mechanisms in this regard (Chile);**

101.83 **Continue its efforts to combat torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment through the improvement of law enforcement legislation and actions (Russian Federation);**

101.84 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly, and strengthen the investigation and prosecution of allegations of torture (Czechia);**

101.85 **Continue to provide appropriate training to lawyers, prosecutors and judges in order to carry out judicial reforms (Japan);**

101.86 **Establish recognition mechanisms for truth and compensation for the victims of the Andijan events (Mexico);**

101.87 **Adopt legislation that ensures the full independence of the judiciary and the exercise of the legal profession in conformity with international standards (Mexico);**

101.88 **Further strengthen ongoing efforts to increase transparency of its judiciary (Republic of Korea);**

101.89 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judicial system (Switzerland);**

101.90 **Continue taking steps for the strengthening of the judicial system (Tajikistan);**

101.91 **Implement national priorities in the field of rights and freedoms of the person (Cuba);**

101.92 Fully implement government decrees banning the forced mobilization of public sector workers and students, and provide access for independent non-governmental organizations to conduct monitoring of labour rights (Australia);

101.93 Continue and expand efforts with regard to freedom of expression and the media (France);

101.94 More vigorously take further steps towards increased press freedom (Georgia);

101.95 Allow the media to operate without government interference, and ensure access to all sources of information, including foreign sources and the Internet (Germany);

101.96 Cease all restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and ensure that the right to manifest one's religion in private or in public is fully protected and realized (Ghana);

101.97 Take the necessary measures to guarantee that all persons can peacefully exercise their right to freedom of expression in accordance with international standards, in particular when it comes to human rights defenders (Argentina);

101.98 Adopt concrete measures to ensure the legitimate exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and belief (Norway);

101.99 Release all journalists detained on politically motivated charges (Slovakia);

101.100 Refrain from oppression of the free press by instances of police violence, detention and censorship (Slovakia);

101.101 Bring legal provisions that restrict the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media into line with Uzbekistan's international human rights obligations, including by allowing effective access to information, also online (Sweden);

101.102 Ensure that all individuals, including human rights defenders and journalists, may exercise their right to freedom of expression and access to information (Switzerland);

101.103 Guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association, and end the harassment of journalists, human rights defenders and those exercising their constitutional right to peaceful protest (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

101.104 Release all persons imprisoned on the basis of their political affiliation, and cease the use of article 221 of the Criminal Code to extend prison sentences without justification (Australia);

101.105 Continue implementing measures to extend public access to legal information and to extend targeted educational work in this area (Belarus);

101.106 Ensure that all trials, including those of persons charged with terrorism or in connection with membership in banned religious organizations, observe international fair trial standards (Finland);

101.107 Consider removing burdensome and oppressive registration requirements, and rescind intrusive government practices, including monitoring and raiding, which infringe on the right to freedom of religion or belief (Ghana);

101.108 Release all prisoners of conscience incarcerated or arbitrarily detained on account of their faith (Ghana);

101.109 Adopt effective measures to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief and to prevent related restrictions and discrimination (Italy);

101.110 Revise provisions in the country's criminal and administrative codes relating to freedom of religion or belief, so as to conform with article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Canada);

101.111 Revise so-called religious "extremism" laws to decriminalize peaceful religious activities, simplify registration requirements for religious groups, and remove penalties on religious literature communications (United States of America);

101.112 Publicly support the work of men and women human rights defenders and independent journalists, particularly by systematically investigating cases of violence or harassment against them, prosecuting perpetrators and compensating and rehabilitating victims (Belgium);

101.113 Ensure prompt, independent and thorough investigation into all reports of assaults on and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society activists, and bring those responsible to justice (Estonia);

101.114 Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);

101.115 Involve Uzbek civil society and international actors more widely in the implementation of decisions, in particular for the prevention of torture, freedom of the media and working conditions during cotton harvests (France);

101.116 Ensure that all civil society and human rights organizations can work without hindrance by lifting prohibitive registration requirements, burdensome programme approval regulations and censorship of printed materials (Germany);

101.117 Provide greater support to facilitate the work of civil society (Iraq);

101.118 Create a safe environment for the work of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, and investigate all reports of harassment of human rights defenders (Poland);

101.119 Enhance efforts to create an environment in which journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs can freely operate in accordance with international standards (Italy);

101.120 Continue to provide support to human right organizations (Kuwait);

101.121 Review the June 2015 law on NGOs and the laws on defamation to bring them into line with international standards, including Uzbekistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Lithuania);

101.122 Ensure that NGOs, human rights defenders, journalists and other members of civil society can freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Lithuania);

101.123 Agree on a precise and early date for the visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, as previously recommended (Ireland);

101.124 Grant unrestricted permission to national and international civil society organizations to freely conduct independent monitoring of the alleged forced mobilization of citizens for cotton picking (Slovenia);

101.125 Make the registration process and requirements for independent NGOs working in the human rights sector more flexible (Spain);

101.126 Fully implement the President's decree of 4 May 2018 (United States of America);

101.127 Further promote the enjoyment of the right to freedom of association and the right to participate in public affairs and facilitate the registration and

unhindered work of NGOs, including those focusing on human rights, as well as the registration and functioning of opposition political parties (Czechia);

101.128 **Increase its efforts in the prohibition of slavery and human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

101.129 **Continue efforts to comprehensively and effectively combat human trafficking (Kazakhstan);**

101.130 **Introduce amendments to the Criminal Code to establish criminal liability for trafficking in children, child prostitution and child pornography (Kyrgyzstan);**

101.131 **Redouble efforts in its fight against trafficking in persons and other related crimes (Nigeria);**

101.132 **Redouble its efforts to combat trafficking in women and children, and ensure appropriate protection for victims through the assignment of human and financial resources to the institutions responsible (Honduras);**

101.133 **Effectively implement the decision made on 8 August 2017 by the Cabinet of Ministers and take further time-bound measures to combat all forms of slavery and forced labour, namely in the cotton and silk sectors (Portugal);**

101.134 **Punish all forms of trafficking in women and children (State of Palestine);**

101.135 **Adopt a holistic approach in combating prostitution (State of Palestine);**

101.136 **Continue its efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

101.137 **Enhance the laws on the protection of victims of human trafficking and ensure that sanctions against those responsible for trafficking are tightened (United Arab Emirates);**

101.138 **Continue to strengthen safeguards against the use of forced labour in the cotton sector (Estonia);**

101.139 **End all forced labour, including by abolishing the quota system in the cotton sector, and allow independent monitoring in this regard (Finland);**

101.140 **Continue cooperation with ILO on the fight against forced labour (France);**

101.141 **Collaborate with ILO to end the systematic use of forced labour of adults in the cotton sector, and develop a comprehensive plan to eliminate its use (Canada);**

101.142 **Eradicate forced labour entirely, including in the cotton harvest sector, through the effective enforcement of the legal framework prohibiting forced labour and by holding those responsible for violations to account (Netherlands);**

101.143 **Step up its efforts to improve working conditions in the cotton production sector and strengthen safeguards against the use of forced labour, particularly child labour (Slovenia);**

101.144 **Continue to work closely with international organizations to eradicate the drivers of forced labour and ensure compliance with ILO recommendations across all sectors (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

101.145 **End forced labour by ensuring the consistent implementation of new labour protections, including by local governments (United States of America);**

101.146 **Take further steps to eradicate forced labour, in particular in the cotton industry (Czechia);**

101.147 **Pursue efforts to provide support and protection to the family, the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**

101.148 **Continue its efforts to further implement international labour standards in the country through its established cooperation with ILO (Maldives);**

101.149 **Continue its efforts to further reduce the gap between rural and urban areas in the fields of education and health care (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

101.150 **Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development, raise people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);**

101.151 **Continue to reinforce its successful social policies on access to education and health, in particular for women and children, as well as its successful programmes aimed at fostering employment, nutrition and assistance for the most vulnerable in the fight against poverty and social inequality (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

101.152 **Implement the action strategy on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2021 (Belarus);**

101.153 **Apply the action strategy on five priority areas of development for 2017–2021 (Cuba);**

101.154 **Adopt legal and political measures to improve access to comprehensive sexual education inside and outside schools in order to increase health-seeking behaviour with respect to sexuality, reproductive health and HIV prevention, with particular emphasis on groups at risk, such as women migrant workers, the rural population, drug users and sex workers (Honduras);**

101.155 **Promote the right to health and to a clean environment of the people in the Aral Sea area (Republic of Korea);**

101.156 **Continue strengthening the national human rights institution in full conformity with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

101.157 **Enhance its efforts to further expand the educational system for various categories of the public, particularly for women and girls (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

101.158 **Continue efforts to provide inclusive education to all children, including those with special needs (Bulgaria);**

101.159 **Address corruption in the education system to ensure that all hidden and/or informal costs are eliminated (Malaysia);**

101.160 **Endeavour to reduce the disparity between urban and rural areas in the distribution of teachers in primary education (Portugal);**

101.161 **Strengthen efforts aimed at guaranteeing women's rights, and protect women more efficiently (Egypt);**

101.162 **Develop policies in order to eradicate forced sterilization and improve contraception policies and policies on access to decent work for women (Paraguay);**

101.163 **Promote the entry of women into the formal economy, and apply legislation guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value (Iceland);**

101.164 Continue implementation of various policies on gender equality and the protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (India);

101.165 Continue to promote gender equality and to protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);

101.166 Take further legislative measures and continue public policies designed to promote and protect the rights of women, and to facilitate their empowerment (Bulgaria);

101.167 Adopt a law on equal rights and opportunities for men and women, as well as a national plan of action on this topic (Kyrgyzstan);

101.168 Continue to assist and promote the advancement of women in society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

101.169 Take necessary steps to attain gender parity in the higher education system, and address barriers to non-traditional education and career paths for girls and women in the country (Malaysia);

101.170 Adopt a comprehensive national action plan to promote gender equality (Montenegro);

101.171 Continue efforts to promoting women's empowerment and gender equality (Nepal);

101.172 Redouble its efforts for the promotion and protection of women's rights, including measures to enhance their representation in leadership and decision-making positions (Pakistan);

101.173 Take additional steps to achieve gender parity in higher education, and overcome barriers to non-traditional education and career paths for girls and women (Portugal);

101.174 Adopt a legal and regulatory framework that guarantees equal rights for men and women, bringing the new laws into line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);

101.175 Invest in additional efforts to lower unemployment, in particular among women, in the agricultural sector and for people of nomad groups (Serbia);

101.176 Adopt new legislation on gender equality in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and prepare a comprehensive national action plan to promote gender equality and improve the role of women in political, economic, public and other spheres of life (Slovenia);

101.177 Take further steps to ensure gender equality in higher education (State of Palestine);

101.178 Revise national legislation and adopt new laws in conformity with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and develop a comprehensive national action plan for gender promotion (Togo);

101.179 Harmonize gender equality to guarantee equal rights (Turkmenistan);

101.180 Fully implement the recommendations of 2015 made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and pass laws on gender equality and domestic violence that comply with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

101.181 Take concrete measures to effectively combat gender-based violence, particularly early marriage and domestic violence, throughout the country, including in rural areas (Belgium);

101.182 Specifically define and prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace (Iceland);

101.183 Take further steps to fight violence against women (Italy);

101.184 Adopt comprehensive measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including through relevant legislation (Kyrgyzstan);

101.185 Accelerate the legislative reform envisaged to promote gender equality and punish gender-based violence, and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);

101.186 Adopt legislation on violence against women in line with international norms and standards (Sweden);

101.187 Harmonize domestic legislation to incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uruguay);

101.188 Legally define and include in the Criminal Code the crimes of domestic violence and gender-based violence, taking into account sexual orientation and gender identity (Uruguay);

101.189 Consider adopting specific legislation on prevention of and protection against gender-based violence and domestic violence in compliance with international human rights standards (Brazil);

101.190 Develop measures for the protection and recovery of and assistance for children living and working in street situations, and prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation (Iceland);

101.191 Continue its efforts to promote and protect family values and the rights of children, youth, women and older persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);

101.192 Consider developing a coherent national strategy for the protection of vulnerable children, with an emphasis on the gradual transition from their current placement in institutions to receiving family support services (Bulgaria);

101.193 Encourage the effective implementation of the comprehensive national mechanism for the protection of vulnerable children (Maldives);

101.194 Enact legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);

101.195 Enhance efforts to protect the rights of children (Republic of Korea);

101.196 Introduce into domestic legislation a definition of the sale of children (State of Palestine);

101.197 Strengthen policies on the protection of children, and take measures to criminalize the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Togo);

101.198 Continue measures to strengthen the mechanisms of protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);

101.199 Continue to improve the support system for persons with disabilities and to strengthen their rights and freedoms (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

101.200 Finalize the elaboration of and adopt a bill on the rights of persons with disabilities that takes into account the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Russian Federation);

101.201 Pursue the efforts made to elaborate a law on persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia).

102. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Uzbekistan and have been noted by Uzbekistan:

102.1 Adopt legislation against discrimination based on gender, disability, migration status, and sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);

102.2 Take the necessary measures to repeal from the Criminal Code the criminalization of consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Argentina);

102.3 Combat any form of discrimination or violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes consensual sexual activities between adult males (Iceland);

102.4 Consider repealing provisions that criminalize homosexuality (Italy);

102.5 Repeal legislation that criminalizes consensual same-sex conduct, and adopt laws to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);

102.6 Combat violence and discrimination on all grounds, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, through the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and by investigating and prosecuting all acts of violence and discrimination (Netherlands);

102.7 Adopt legal measures to combat effectively all forms of discrimination on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);

102.8 Punish discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity prejudices (Chile);

102.9 Repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code that criminalizes consensual relationships between men, and take measures to alleviate the discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and to investigate and punish acts of violence and so-called "hate crimes" (Spain);

102.10 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex, and combat stigmatization on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (Uruguay);

102.11 Eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination, including that based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Czechia).

103. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Uzbekistan was headed by H.E. Prof Akmal Saidov, Chairman of the Committee of the Legislative Chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* (Parliament) on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Citizens' self-government bodies, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Ulugbek Lapasov, Counsellor, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Makhmud Istamov, Deputy Minister of Justice;
- Mr. Bakhrombek Adilov, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs;
- Mr. Erkin Yuldashev, Deputy Prosecutor General;
- Mr. Dilmurod Kasimov, Authorized Person of the President to Protect the Rights and Interests of Entrepeneurs, Business-Ombudsman;
- Mr. Gulyamjon Pirimkulov, Head of division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.